Atlanta Olympics, 1996

3472. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been discriminated in sending the Government media in Atlanta Olympics, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. From Doordarshan, an 8-member official team was deputed for coverage of Atlanta Olympic Games, 1996. In the case of All India Radio, although Voice of America provided a daily capsule of 15 minutes in Hindi covering important events of the day free of cost, Shri Jasdev Singh, non-official commentator, was also deputed to Atlanta for providing Telephone Voice Casts in Hindi which was broadcast daily during the period of games.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Tourist Places in Orissa

3473. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places of tourist interest in Orissa which are on National and International tourist map; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of tourist spots during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The National Action Plan for tourism in 1992 had identified Puri-Bhubaneswar-Konark for intensive development. Details regarding these places are available in the publicity literature brought out by the Department of tourism.

(b) The details of financial assistance sanctioned to the State of Orissa for the lst three years is provided below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
101.52	166.31	108.86

Pension Scheme

3474. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have tried to popularise the new pension scheme through seminars etc. during July 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the opinion expressed by some of the Trade Unions in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The Central Government had not organised any Seminar on new pension scheme in July, 1996. However, earlier several meetings were held with the Central Trade Union Organisations. They had suggested *inter-alia* removal of discrimination between married sons and married daughters and between remarrying widows and remarrying widowers, extension of the scheme benefits to the employees drawing wages beyond Rs. 5000/- per month, provision for commutation, reduction in discounting rate for early payment of pension, provision of ensuring pension payment in default cases, application of the scheme to the subscribers who did not join the Family Pension Scheme, 1971, refund of family pension-related withdrawal benefit in the case of exemption and coverage of piece-rated workers. These suggestions have since been examined and on 28.2.1996 a notification was issued carrying out necessary amendments in the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995. Suggestions like providing individual option, linking pension with the consumer's price index and giving pension as third benefit have not been found actuarially feasible for acceptance.

Killings of Tourists in Kashmir

3475. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent killings of Tourists by militants in Kashmir has resulted in drastic fall in tourists arrival in valley;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of tourists visited Kashmir valley during the current year, so far;

(d) whether the tourists on arrival in valley are briefed about Security instructions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.